

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated December 29, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claims 1 and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-13 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,313,898, issued to Numano et al. (hereafter "Numano"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because Numano fails to teach each and every feature recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Numano fails to teach a multi-domain liquid crystal display device that includes, "electric field distorting means on a domain boundary and overlapping the at least two domains, wherein the electric field distorting means are located at an edge area and central portion of the pixel" as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application.

Numano also fails to teach a multi-domain liquid crystal display device that includes "electric field distorting means on a domain boundary of the pixel and overlapping the two domains on one of the first and second domains..., wherein the electric field distorting means are located at an edge area and a central portion of the pixel" as recited in independent claim 10 of the present application.

Because Numano fails to teach at least the above features of independent claims 1 and 10, Numano does not anticipate claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 5-9, and claim 10 and its dependent claims 11-12 and 16-20. As such, claims 1-2, 5-13 and 16-20 are allowable over Numano. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 3-4 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Numano in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,710,837, issued to Song et al. (hereafter "Song"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because neither Numano nor

Song, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Numano and Song fail to teach a multi-domain liquid crystal display device that includes, among other features, “electric field distorting means on a domain boundary and overlapping the at least two domains, wherein the electric field distorting means are located at an edge area and central portion of the pixel” as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application.

Numano and Song further fail to teach a multi-domain liquid crystal display device that includes, “electric field distorting means on a domain boundary of the pixel and overlapping the two domains on one of the first and second domains..., wherein the electric field distorting means are located at an edge area and a central portion of the pixel” as recited in independent claim 10 of the present application.

The Office Action states that Numano fails to teach “electric field distorting means comprising a protrusion”. To remedy this deficient teachings of Numano, the Office Action relies upon the teachings of Song. Based upon the teaching of the linear protrusion in FIG. 3B of Song, the Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Numano with the linear protrusion of Song to provide a device having the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the description of the first embodiment including FIG. 3B of Song, it is stated that the “molecules 3 near the surface of the upper substrate 2 where the apertures or protrusions do not exist and near the center of a region between the apertures 4 of the protrusions 5, which are far from the apertures 4 or the protrusions 5, may not be affected by the electric field near the apertures 4 or protrusions 5. The arrangement of the molecules 3 in the region may not be so uniform and the response time may not be so short” (col. 5, lines 53-62). Applicants submit this teaching of Song would not motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Numano to include the protrusion of FIG. 3B. Further, even if Numano were modified to include a protrusion as taught in FIG. 3B of Song, the resulting combination of Numano and Song would fail to provide “electric field distorting means on a domain boundary and overlapping the at least two domains, wherein the electric field distorting means are located at an

edge area and central portion of the pixel” as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application, from which claims 3 and 4 depend; and “electric field distorting means on a domain boundary of the pixel and overlapping the two domains on one of the first and second domains..., wherein the electric field distorting means are located at an edge area and a central portion of the pixel” as recited in independent claim 10 of the present application, from which claims 14-15.

Because no combination of Numano and Song would provide the above features of independent claims 1 and 10, claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-5, and claim 10 and its dependent claims 14-15 are allowable over Numano and Song. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments and remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: March 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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